

North Steens Transmission Line Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The 44-mile, 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line will convey power generated from a wind project proposed for development on private land on the north side of Steens Mountain in Oregon.

VITALS

Location: Harney County, Oregon

Technology: The transmission line will transport electrical power generated at the proposed Echanis Wind Energy Project to Harney Electric Cooperative's existing electrical transmission grid.

Electricity production capacity: BLM's right-of-way grant for the 12 miles of the 44-mile 230kV transmission line that crosses BLM lands will enable up to 104 megawatts of renewable energy from the proposed Echanis Wind Energy Project on private lands.

Company: Echanis, LLC, a subsidiary company of Columbia Energy Partners, LLC.



BY THE NUMBERS - The project is expected to:

- ✓ Enable production of up to 104 megawatts of renewable energy
- ✓ Enable production of renewable wind energy during the winter months, complementing other sources of Northwest energy production which peak during other seasons.
- ✓ Produce enough electricity to power 30,000 homes
- ✓ Create 219 temporary jobs during peak construction and 16 permanent jobs from the North Steens Transmission Project and the Echanis Wind Energy Project combined
- ✓ Generate an estimated \$4.5 million in property tax revenue over the 40 year project life.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The BLM worked with local, state and other Federal Agencies, as well as the company to mitigate a number of environmental effects that would result from development of the Echanis Wind Energy Project and associated Transmission Project impacts.

- ✓ Sage Grouse: Developed a mitigation plan specific to sage brush and sage grouse habitat that would involve replacement of lost habitat on over 2,400 acres of public land and almost 8,500 acres of private land.
- ✓ Golden Eagles, Migratory Birds and Bats: Developed a mitigation plan to avoid, minimize and compensate for any mortality associated with operations of the Echanis Wind Energy Project.

- ✓ Visual Impacts: The coloration of all exterior components of the wind turbines will be off-white or light gray for the blades and for the towers. The finish of all of these exterior components shall be flat, semi-gloss or galvanized, so as not to present significant glare.
- ✓ Audio Impacts: The wind turbines would not exceed allowable statistical noise levels in any one hour, as measured at off-site sensitivity receptors, under applicable State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality noise standards.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: The BLM released the North Steens Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in October 2011. The BLM has worked closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), State of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Harney County to incorporate the most updated ODFW sage-grouse mitigation framework into the EIS.

THE BIG PICTURE: The North Steens Transmission Project is one of the projects that will help achieve the Administration and Interior initiative to make a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of renewable energy by providing transmission capability on public land for wind generated power.